

funds raised are dedicated to reducing the federal debt. The bill validates the authority of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate tobacco products, including stronger warning labels, advertising restrictions, and detailed disclosure of all ingredients. The bill sets aggressive targets to reduce youth tobacco use by 80 percent over 10 years.

The bill embodies the strong tobacco control measures supported by Dr. C. Everett Koop, former U.S. Surgeon General under President Reagan, and Dr. Davis A. Kessler, former Commissioner of the FDA under both President Bush and President Clinton.

By introducing this bill with strong bipartisan support, we hope to keep our national effort against teen smoking out of the arena of partisan posturing. Our children's lives are infinitely more important than political gamesmanship, and infinitely more precious than Big Tobacco's profit margins.

The Senate is expected to vote soon on a comprehensive anti-tobacco bill sponsored by Sen. JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ). Legislation is still being introduced and examined in the House. Congress should act expeditiously to send anti-teen smoking legislation to the President. America's children deserve nothing less.

#### TRIBUTE TO GOLD STAR PARENTS DAY

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 1998*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Gold Star Parents Day, commemorated in my home state of Texas on June 8.

Gold Star Parents is dedicated to honoring those who inspire service to our nation in their children. Celebrated halfway between Mother's Day and Father's Day, Gold Star Parents Day is a reminder that behind every veteran who serves his or her nation, there is a mother AND a father who directly or indirectly motivate a son or a daughter into service.

Founded in Laredo, Texas in 1971, Gold Star Parents boasts a membership that spans the state. Among patriotic family organizations, Gold Star Parents is one of the few of its kind in that it offers full membership to both mothers and fathers of veterans.

Last week on Memorial Day we paused to reflect upon the service of our nation's veterans. Today, I urge you to consider the tremendous sacrifice the brave mothers and fathers of those veterans endure when they send their beloved off to war. Our nation's freedom is built upon the sacrifices of our nation's veterans. We must not forget that those sacrifices are borne foremost among the mothers and fathers of those veterans.

For that I honor the parents and urge the remembrance of the mothers and fathers of our fallen heroes on June 8.

#### THE UNNECESSARY LEGISLATIVE FIGHT OVER ENCRYPTION

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 1998*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 695, the Security and Freedom Through Encryption

(SAFE) Act is unnecessary legislation and should not be passed. Past service on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has provided this Member with considerable evidence of the harmful effects this legislation, in its current form, would have on our national security and law enforcement efforts. In addition, H.R. 695 would prohibit the Administration and specifically, the Bureau of Export Administration, from striking the proper balance between national security and commercial interests in the licensing of strong encryption. The legislation needs to be amended, dramatically, if it comes to the House Floor. But most importantly, it is not necessary.

In the House International Relations Committee, this Member co-authored and supported an amendment to H.R. 695 which would have given the President of the United States a national security waiver to the mandated and complete relaxation of export controls of encryption products under H.R. 695. Unfortunately, our amendment was defeated on a 13-22 vote in the House International Relations Committee and H.R. 695 was passed over my opposition. This issue has been intensely lobbied by the software and electronics business sector and others.

On the other hand, this Member also does not support competing legislation to H.R. 695, which would impose domestic controls on the use of encryption in the United States. This very complicated and important national issue has been unnecessarily polarized by the software industry and by the law enforcement community. In fact, the software industry's uncompromising position on H.R. 695 has actually prompted the law enforcement community to push for this more rigorous domestic legislation and a stalemate has been created.

This Member believes that the disinformation that has been provided by a few groups or persons on both sides of this national debate has not led to an environment where a legislative compromise is easily achieved. For example, the software industry currently downplays the fact that many U.S. software manufacturers and hardware exporters are exporting relatively robust encryption after obtaining license approvals from the Department of Commerce. Moreover, U.S. financial institutions have general exceptions to the export controls on encryption for their own purposes.

These two important points reveal that the solution to this issue for U.S. software exporters is not the legislative process, but a change in the administrative regulations. Simply put, current law does not prohibit the Administration from relaxing these export controls and, therefore, a change in law is not necessary.

#### TEENS URGE HOUSE ACTION ON COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO BILL

**HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 1998*

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I call my colleagues attention to almost 1,800 students from Tennessee's Ninth Congressional District who want us to act immediately on a comprehensive tobacco bill. Young people have been and continue to be the targets of decep-

tive marketing tactics of cigarette companies and in light of the industry's most recent lobbying effort, I believe it is critical that the voices of those who are most affected by their practices be heard. It is my hope that these signatures will send a message to those who are captive to the powerful tobacco lobby that our children will no longer be manipulated into taking up the deadly habit of smoking.

I ask that the attached letter to the Speaker and the names of the signers of the attached petitions be entered into the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, June 4, 1998.*

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,

*Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Today I am submitting to the Congressional Record the names of almost 1,800 public and private school students from Tennessee's Ninth Congressional District urging you to act immediately to bring comprehensive tobacco legislation to the floor for a vote.

Since the 1950's, tobacco companies have repeatedly lied in sworn congressional testimony and public statements about the harm caused by their products and whether they intentionally marketed cigarettes to children. Most recently, the industry released more than 40,000 previously secret documents showing that nicotine is addictive. The current public health impact of tobacco on our young people is devastating.

Over 4 million high school seniors are addicted to tobacco.

In Tennessee, 39% of 9th-12th graders smoke cigarettes and 27% of high school boys use smokeless tobacco.

33% of young people who begin smoking while in high school will die early from a smoking related illness.

As you know, the Senate is currently debating a tough and comprehensive tobacco bill, but the House hasn't held one hearing nor have you committed to bringing a bill to the full House for consideration during the 105th Congress. Our lack of action on this matter will only result in more young people becoming addicted to smoking and more smoking related illnesses in the years to come. I urge you to heed the calls from the many young people in Tennessee's Ninth Congressional District and throughout the nation to move a tough tobacco bill this year.

Sincerely,

HAROLD FORD, JR.,

*Member of Congress.*

*Corry Middle School.*—LaToya House, LaShanna House, Nicole Gillespie, Gwendolyn Gordon, Shanta Morris, Kyla Goliday, Angel Jackson, Serenity Washington, Monique Wilkinson, TaJuana Bratcher, Shemeka Hall, Ebony Farris, Jeremy Boyd, Richarg Payne, Liz Edwards, Michelle Taylor, Tiffany S. Young, Tiffany Harwell, Jeremy Hunt, Melvin Robinson, Krystal N. Finnie, Kevin Washington, Selena D. Coulta, Sheeria Franklin, Erica Freeman, Catarica Rodgers, Brandi Terrell, Morris Doyle, Nakia Dowdy, Kenesha Payne, Ebony Stone, Latoya Henderson, Shannon Martin, Shawn Bragg, Marquita Palmoo, Willie Simmons, Nick Anderson, Patria Bryant, Tabetha Brown, Tina Hines, Allen S. Franklin, Rapheal Poole, Cammie Thomas, Clinton Smith, Derrita Mobley, Carlos Richardson, Crystal Watson, James Boone, Cherentia Franklin, Tikeya Morris, Toya Bond, Shelia Mouing, Carter Eugene, James Boone, Carlos Richardson, Crystal Watson, Cherentia Franklin, LaDonna Boyd, Morris Reed, Devin Williams, Jerome Jackson, Chris Demble, Mariario Blair, Darrell Williams,